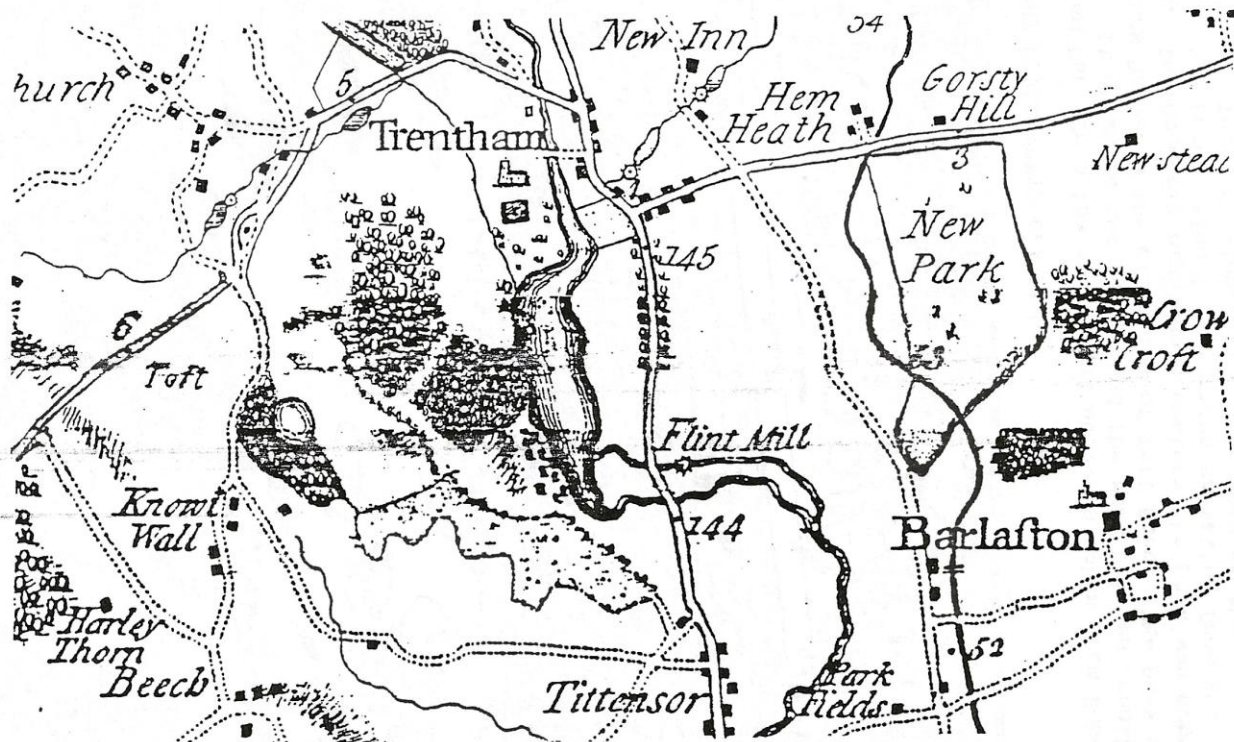


## Kings Wood & Spring Valley, Trentham Park

Tutor: Andrew Dobraszczyk

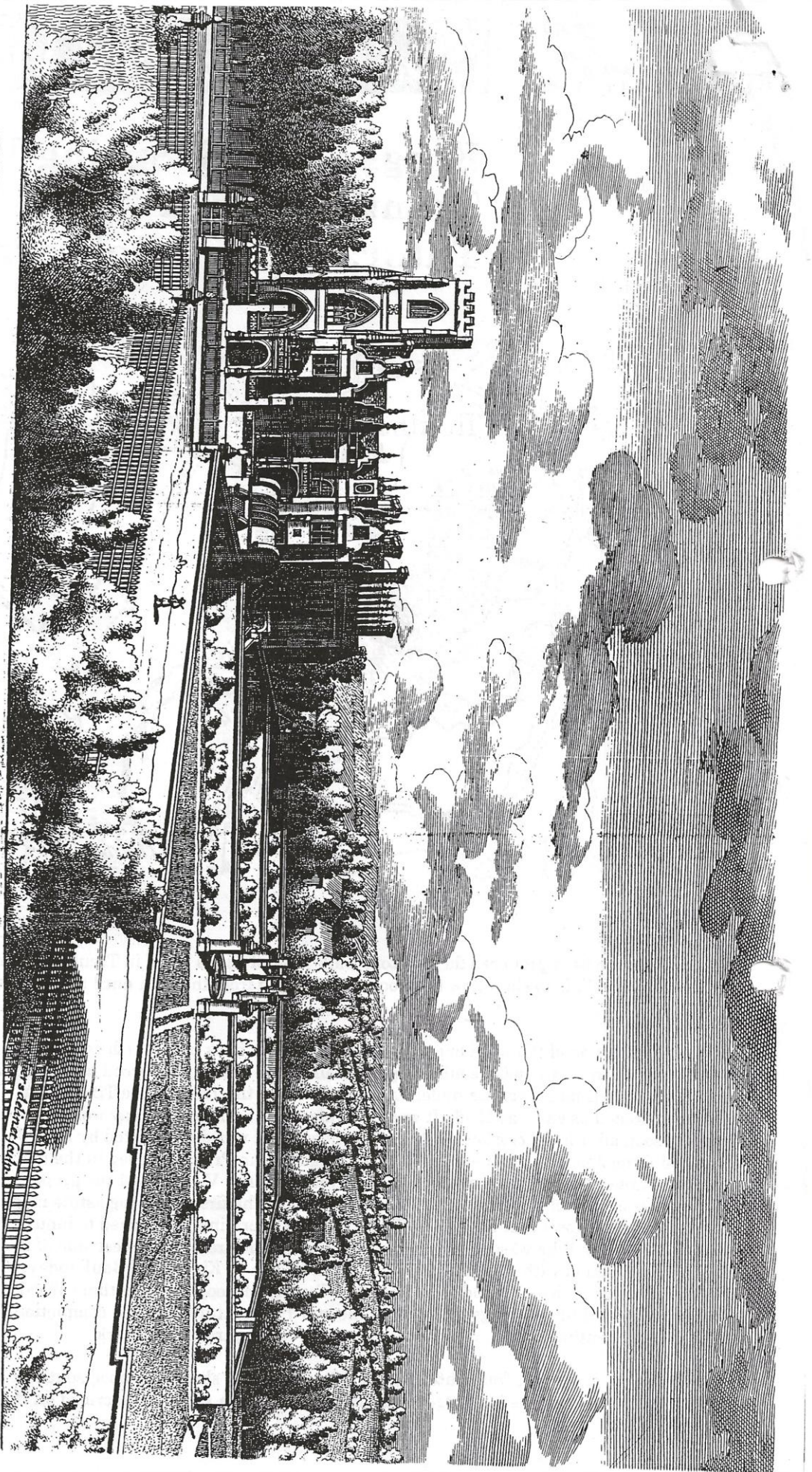


These notes have been produced for a history walk around Kings Wood in Trentham Park. The purpose of the walk is to show how the wood has changed from the 16th until the middle of the 20th century.

The first description of the wood appears in the Domesday Book in the 11th century: The King holds Trentham....There is a wood one mile long and half a mile broad. This wood became part of a royal forest extending from Newcastle-under-Lyme south down the Trent to the Tixall area. The new forest may have existed as early as 1086. It was certainly there by 1166 and may well have been created by Henry II soon after his accession in 1154. This new forest was disafforested by King John in 1204. The wood formed part the property held by the Augustinian Priory founded in the middle of the 12th century. Three years after the priory was dissolved by Henry VIII in 1537 the property was bought by James Leveson, a wool merchant from Wolverhampton. The first surviving estate map from the end of the 16th century shows that the name "Kings Wood" was originally attached to land between the Eccleshall Road and the west side of the present wood. The area on the west side of the Eccleshall Road by the junction with the Drayton Road is still known as Kingswood Bank today. For at least three hundred years Kings Wood was known as "Trentham Copy" or "Trentham Wood". It did not acquire its present name, Kings Wood, until the mid 19th century after the completion of the rebuilding of Trentham Hall, and the reconstruction of the gardens and park.

The map above, an extract from Yates's Map of Staffordshire, shows the wood south west of the hall in 1775. By then the wood had undergone substantial alteration which is described on the next two pages.





#### TRENTHAM PARK IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

The view of Trentham Park from the south-west above is taken from Robert Plot's, *Natural History of Staffordshire*, published in 1686. It shows in the foreground the road between Trentham Hall and the Park which ran south-west from what is now Park Drive in the direction of Toft Farm. The Park was then surrounded by a park pale and planted with trees. In the early eighteenth century the park was substantially enlarged by incorporating the Tunstall Fields into the park. Five formal rides radiating from the Hall were laid out across the park extension and through Kings Wood. These developments can be seen on the map on the next page.

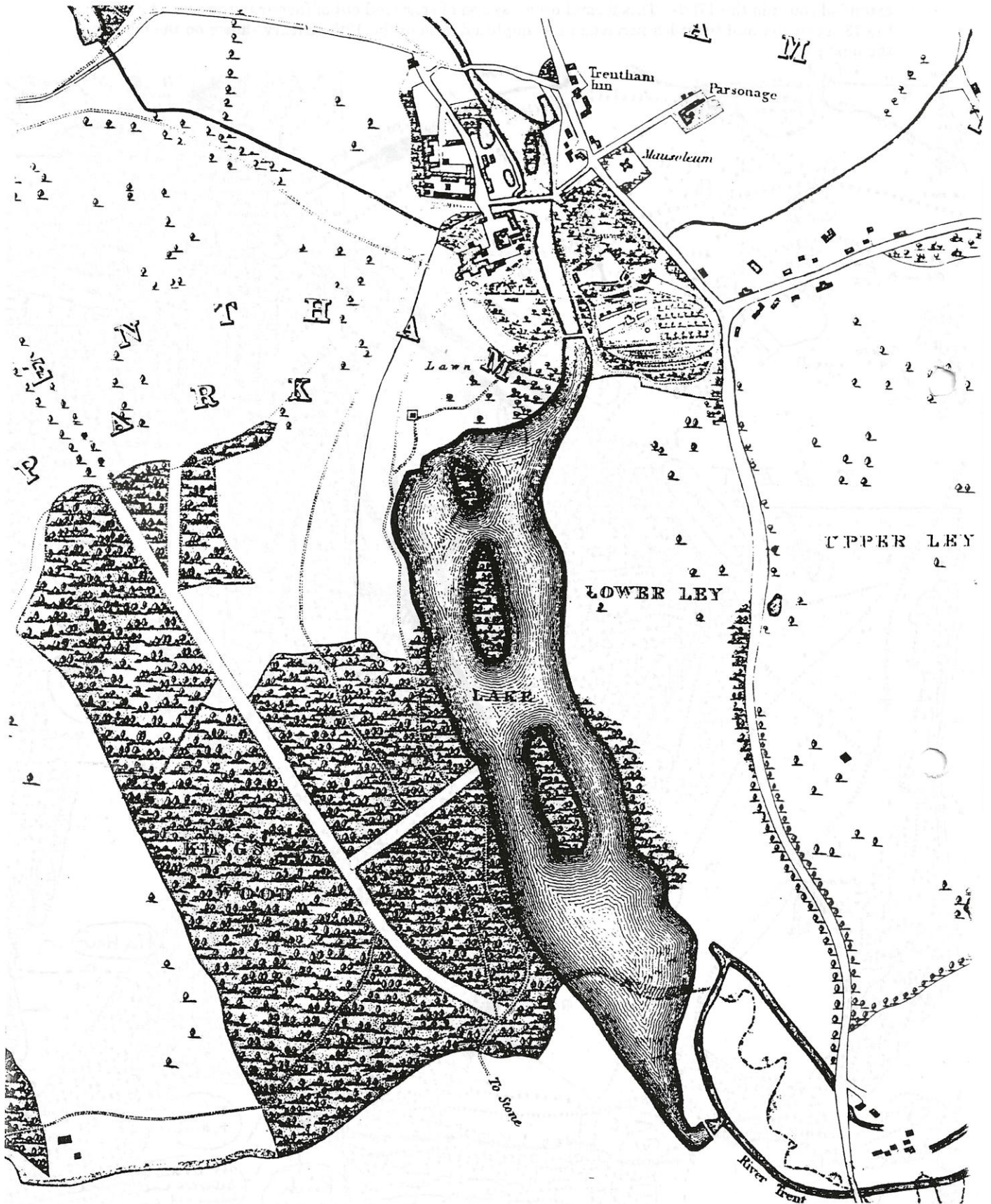






4.

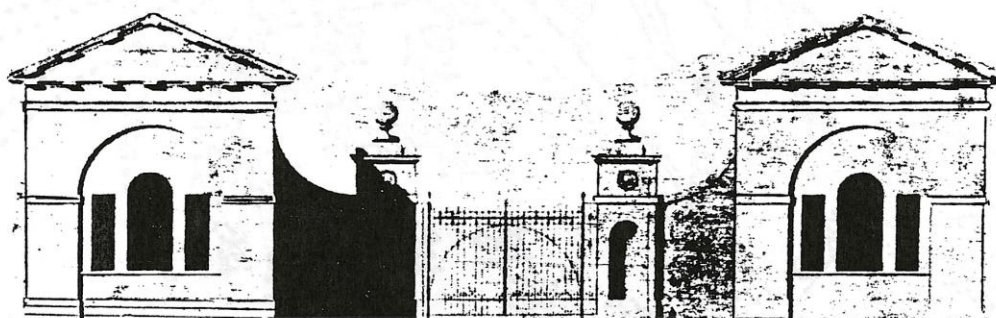
EXTRACT FROM: Thomas Hargreaves, Map of the Staffordshire Potteries and Newcastle-under-Lyme, 1832, dedicated by him to "George Granville, Marquess of Stafford, K.C. The zealous promoter of the Interests of the several Towns and liberal Patron of their Public Institutions".



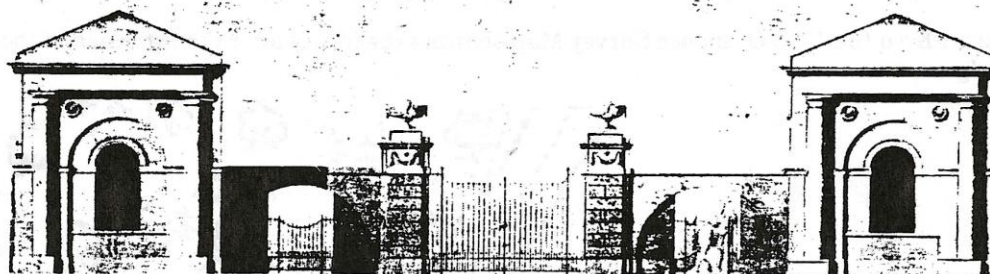


## THE TITTENSOR PARK LODGES

The original access to Trentham Hall from the south was up Monument Lane and then along the "London Drive" through Trentham Park to the west front of the Hall. In 1775-6 a pair of lodges designed by Joseph Pickford were constructed at the southern entrance to Kings Wood. Joseph Pickford was a Derby architect who had designed Sandon Hall for Lord Archibald Hamilton about 1770 but it is probable that he got the Trentham commission through Josiah Wedgwood, for whom he had designed both the factory at Etruria and Etruria Hall (1767-73). In his letters Wedgwood refers several times to the value of Lord Gowers's support and also to the pleasure that he derived from his visits to Trentham. The Trentham Hall collection at Staffordshire Records Office contains two versions of the lodges (illustrated below). Originally each lodge had only one room upstairs and downstairs. In the third quarter of the 19th century the left hand lodge was extended by the addition of a kitchen and larder on the ground floor and a second bedroom on the first floor from plans produced by Thomas Roberts the estate surveyor. The Ordnance survey map on the next page shows the plan of the lodges after the completion of the extension. Subsequently the right hand lodge was also extended on the ground and first floor (see 1898 O.S. map).



VARIANT PROPOSALS FOR TRENTHAM LODGES, BY JOSEPH PICKFORD  
*See letter: Unused Plans for Trentham Lodges*



## THE PARK KEEPER

The new lodge was occupied by James Penson, Park-keeper to Earl Gower. The Penson family had been in the service of the Leveson family since the 1580s. By early 1740s James Penson was employed as park-keeper at Trentham. He died in 1769 and his son, also James Penson, took over the position. He and his wife moved into the new lodge in 1776. Life must have been very cramped because they already had 8 children by September 1776. James Penson died in 1814 and was buried in Trentham churchyard on 22 October. His entry in the parish register reads: "James Penson, Park keeper to the Marquis of Stafford, of Tittensor Lodge in Stone Parish, aged 73". His eldest surviving son, John, then became park keeper. At the time of the 1841 census he was returned as follows:

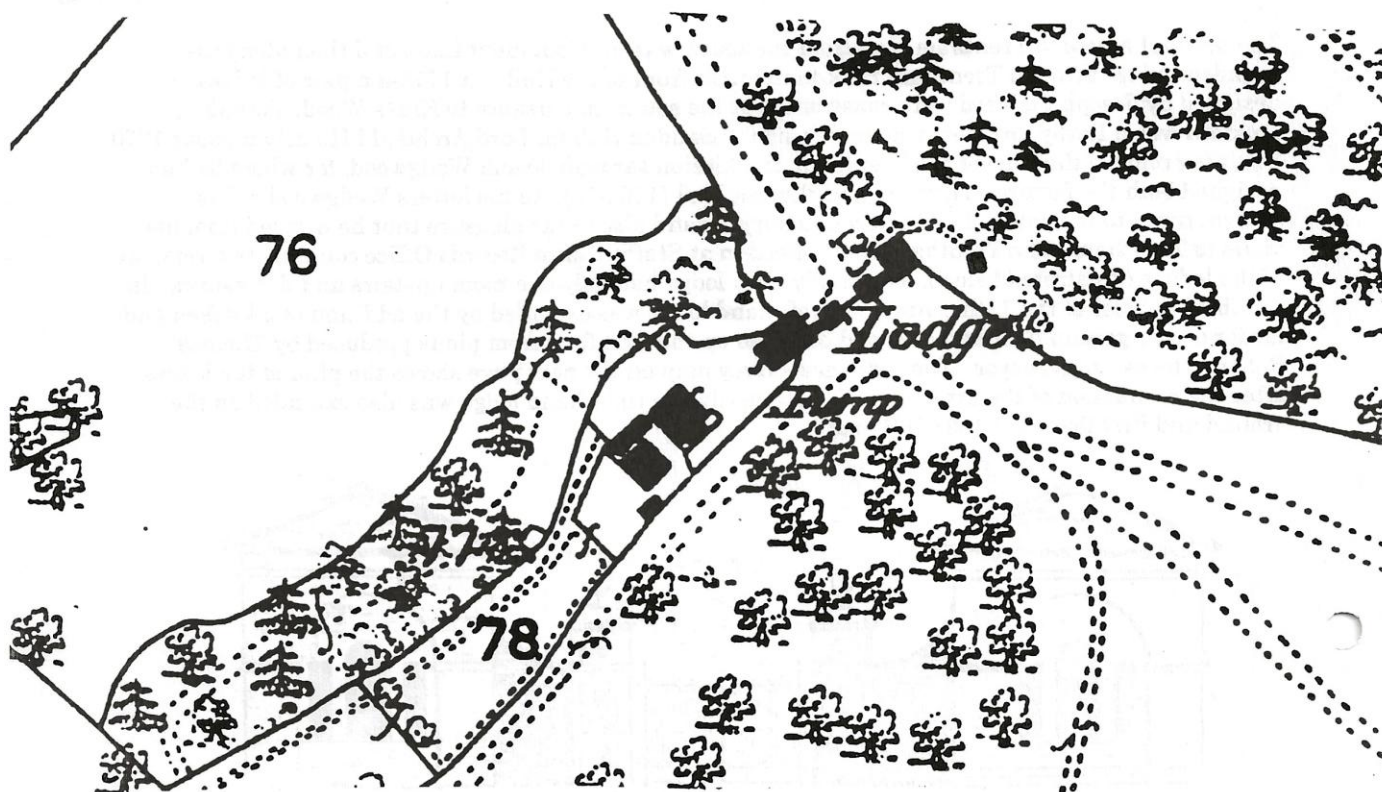
### "TITTENSOR PARK LODGE"

### WHETHER BORN IN STAFFORDSHIRE

John Penson	65	Forester	Yes
Reuben Penson	25	Assistant Forester	Yes
George Penson	25	Foreman to Park Labourers	Yes
Thomas Penson	10		Yes
Mary Penson	20		Yes
Elixabeth Penson	65		Yes
Margaret Mullagan	25	F(emale) S(ervant)	Ireland

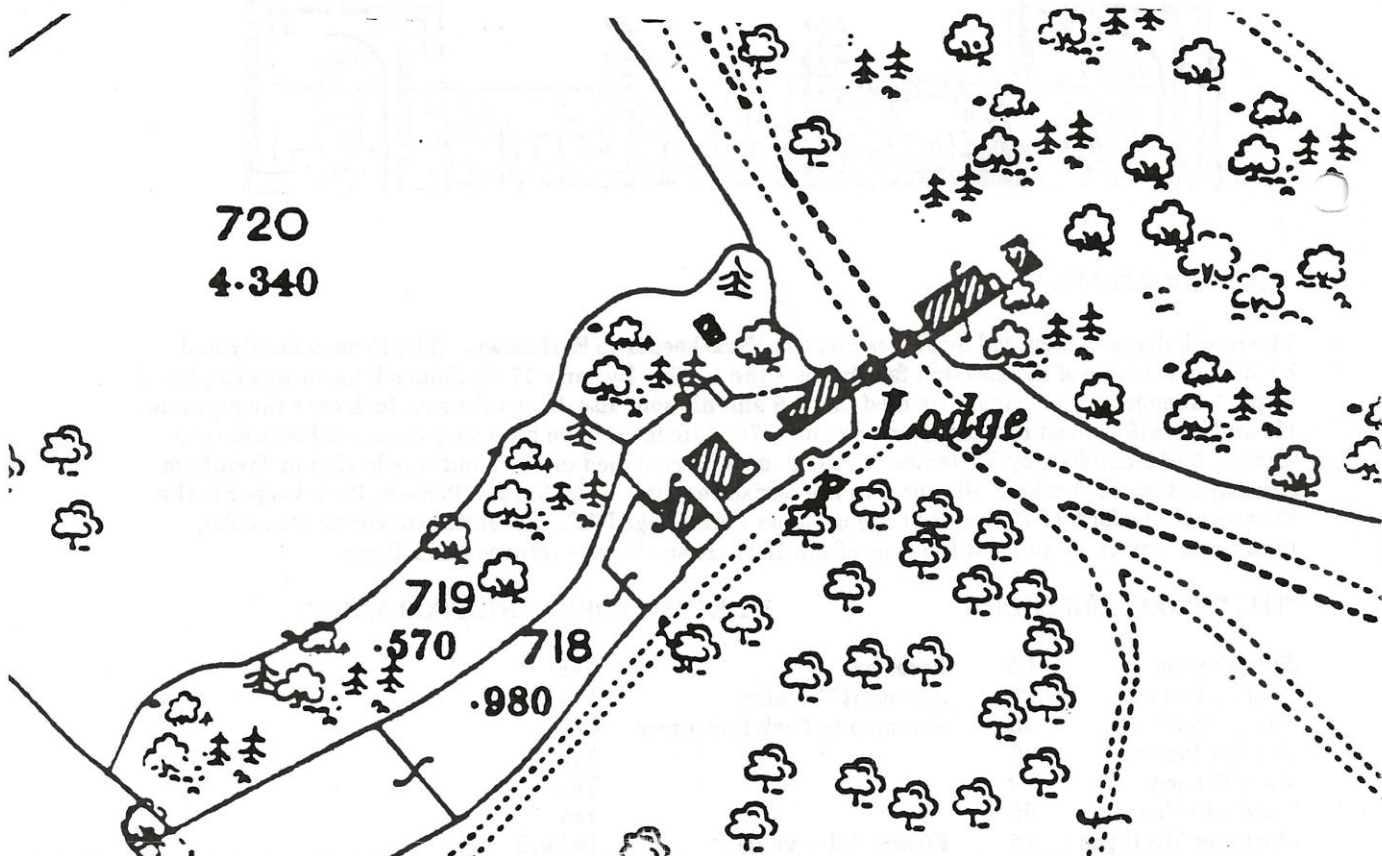


6.



ABOVE: Extract from the 1877 Ordnance Survey Map showing the Tittensor Park Lodges after the extension of the left hand lodge.

BELOW: Extract from the 1898 Ordnance Survey Map showing the lodges after the extension of the right hand lodge.





## THE DUTIES OF THE PARK-KEEPER

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries the park-keeper had three areas of responsibility: the management of the park and its deer; the management of Kings Wood; and the letting of Trentham Ley. Trentham Ley was a large area of open pasture land created in the mid 18th century out of the fields situated on both sides of the Stone Road east of Trentham Park Lake. The land east of the Stone Road was known as the "Upper Ley" and the land on the opposite side of the road was known as "Lower Ley" (see map page 4). The ley was let out to farmers and butchers moving stock north to the industrial cities. The advertisement below from the Staffordshire Advertiser of 19th March 1836 illustrates how letting was organised:

TRENTHAM LEY, from the 13th of May to the 11th of October, 1836.			
	£.	s.	d.
For Cows .....	3	0	0
Twinters .....	2	0	0
Stirks .....	1	10	0
Horses—One year old .....	3	0	0
Two year do.....	4	10	0
Three year do.....	5	0	0

The Ley is well supplied with water, and will not be over stocked; and a careful person is appointed to attend to the stock.

To enter the stock, apply to the tenant, JOHN PENSON, Park Lodge; Mr. SCOTT, Roe Buck Inn, Newcastle; or Mr. LITTLE, Royal Victoria Hotel, Newport.

The Tenant will not be accountable for any loss or accident that may happen to the stock; and the money must be paid at the time of taking out of the Ley.

N.B.—JOHN PENSON will send a person to meet the stock from Shropshire on Thursday the 12th of May, at Mrs. Tagg's, King's Arms Inn, Eccleshall.

In the early 1840s the the sub-agent at Trentham expressed dissatisfaction with the way in which the woods were being managed:

Letter from William Lewis, sub-agent at Trentham, to James Loch, agent to the Duke of Sutherland, 3 April 1840:

I wish for his Grace's interest that the management of the Park and Woods may be disunited for many reasons I can give you, there are now many valuable plantations that require great and constant attention but I will explain myself more fully when we meet which I hope may be soon.

Ditto: 22 May 1841:

Old Penson's bad state of health made him quite unfit to look after the woods and woodmen properly. But on several occasions her Grace named Woolley as being a successful planter, my reply was that I did not consider him active enough as a woodman at Trentham, it required a very active man and I have often complained to you on that subject.

John Penson to James Loch, 9 March 1842:

I have received yours and am much obliged to the clear manner in which you have pointed out the orders I have to attend to, and I will take every care that they are strictly obeyed. I have Me Henny an estimate of all the extra work for the present month according to orders which I hope you have received, the only extra work I have heard of is to raise and improve the Island in Toft Pool, and when the water is sufficiently low to measure the distance the mud will have to be wheeled, I will send you an estimate we are going to improve the solidity of the drive through King's Wood but that will be done by the park labourers at day wages.

When "old Penson" died his son, Reuben, took over as park-keeper. His duties no longer included the management of the woods which became the responsibility of a wood ranger. In the 1851 census his entry reads:

"PARK LODGE, TITTENSOR"

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Reuben Penson	Head	Married	39	Park keeper	Staffs, Trentham
Mary Ann Penson	Wife	Married	36		Staffs, Trentham
Tabitta Peak	St	Single	26	House Servant	Staffs, Swinnerton



8.

Reuben moved to Hanchurch in 1861 and his brother George Penson was appointed as park-keeper and moved into the lodge in time to be recorded in the census of that year:

"PARK LODGE, TITTENSOR"

George Penson	Head	Married	46	Park keeper	Staffs, Trentham
Jane Penson	Wife	Married	40		Staffs, Trentham
Elizabeth Penson	Dau	Single	12	Scholar	Staffs, Trentham
John Penson	Son	Single	5	Scholar	Staffs, Trentham
Ann Symcox	St	Single	17	House Servant	Staffs, Trentham

George Penson was the last of the family to hold this position a fact noted by the Staffordshire Advertiser in his obituary in 1889:

Tittensor Park Lodge was let to John Harvey who is described as "Farmer" in Kelly's Directories of Staffordshire in the 1890s.

THE LATE PARK-RANGER AT TRENTHAM. The death of George Penson, of the Park Lodge, Trentham, who for a period of 28 years had been a faithful and valued servant to the Trentham family; took place on the 5th inst. The deceased had been out of health for the last 15 months, his illness originating in a fall in the snow. He suffered lately from bronchitis, which terminated in his death at the age of 74 years. In his last illness he was visited by the Marquis and Marchioness of Stafford and the Earl of Cromartie, by whom he was held in the highest esteem. Mr. Penson is the last survivor of a long and respected race of foresters and park-rangers at Trentham. He was the son of John Penson, who for many years was forester to the second Duke of Sutherland, and was first succeeded by his son Reuben, and on the death of the latter by the deceased. The ancestor of the Penson family came to England with Admiral Sir Richard Levison, a grand-ancestor to the present Duke, after the defeat of the Invincible Armada in 1588. The interment took place on the 9th inst. when several officials on the estate attended to show their respect.

THE WOOD RANGER

The first wood ranger with direct responsibility for the management of the wood was George Powner. The Powner family had been servants of Early Gower since the 1760s and lived at Heath House in Hanchurch Hills. In the mid 1840s when George Powner was appointed wood ranger he was given a cottage in Trentham Park near the Eccleshall Road. The family was recorded there in the 1851 census:

"TRENTHAM PARK COTTAGE"

George Powner	Head	Married	28	Woodman	Staffs, Trentham
Ellen Powner	Wife	Married	31		Staffs, Madeley
Fanny Powner	Dau	Single	7	Scholar	Staffs, Stone
Mary Powner	Dau	Single	5	Scholar	Staffs, Trentham
Betty Powner	Dau	Single	3	Scholar	Staffs, Trentham
William Buchanan	Lodger	Single	41	Assistant Wood Ranger	Scotland

In the late 1850s William Buchanan took over as wood ranger and the tenancy of the cottage in the park:

1871 CENSUS: "TRENTHAM PARK, HANCHURCH BROOK"

William Buchanan	Head	Married	59	Wood Forrester	Scotland
Sarah Buchanan	Wife	Married	42		Staffs, Newcastle
Margaret Buchanan	Dau	Single	11	Scholar	Staffs, Trentham
Mary Furnival	St	Single	15	General Servant	Staffs, Sandon

By 1877 he had retired and Robert Collins was appointed in his place. Unlike his predecessors he lived in a house in Trentham village. He was still park ranger in 1900 but by 1904 the post of wood ranger to the Duke of Sutherland was held by John Harvey of the Tittensor Lodge.



9.

A DISPUTE WITHIN THE FAMILY OVER THE WOODS ON THE ESTATE  
The Staffordshire Advertiser, 30 March 1892

## THE MARQUIS OF STAFFORD V. THE DUKE OF SUTHERLAND.

### JUDGMENT.

In the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice yesterday Mr. Justice North gave judgment on the motion of the Marquis of Stafford to restrain the defendant, the Duke of Sutherland, from cutting down timber on the Trentham estate.

With reference to the Hamchurch and Beechfield woods his Lordship decided to take an undertaking from the defendant that he would not touch the fringe of the trees bordering the drives. With regard to the Toff Pool Wood he held that a clear *prima facie* case had been made out. The better course would be that no trees there should be cut before the trial. In the case of the High Graves Wood only such timber should be cut as was necessary in the ordinary way of thinning. His Lordship said he should make no order on the motion except that the costs of both parties should be costs in the action, the plaintiff giving an undertaking that he would pay the value of the trees if it was found at the trial that the defendant had a right to cut them.

A curious case, the *Birmingham Gazette* remarks, in which the Duke of Sutherland was the defendant, and his son, the Marquis of Stafford, the plaintiff, was brought to a conclusion yesterday. The Marquis, who is heir to the dukedom and to the estate, required that his father should be restrained from cutting down trees in Trentham Park and Woods. These trees are chiefly ornamental, and in ordinary cases it would be supposed that a man might do pretty much as he liked with his own property. But a man has not absolute power over estates which he has inherited, and to which his sons will in due course succeed; he is rather in the position of a trustee, and must not undertake any proceedings likely to depreciate the value of the property. Otherwise he may be held to be "impeachable for waste," and according to Mr. Justice North's ruling the cutting of ornamental timber or the opening of mines would come under this designation. The Duke seems to have had a desire to remove a considerable portion of the ornamental timber in his park, but the Judge said he could only be allowed to do so to a limited extent. He could cut or thin the timber so far as it impeded the growth of other trees, but beyond this limit he might not go. A surveyor was called, who declared that had the Duke's intentions been carried out and the trees in Hamchurch Wood removed the value of the property would have been prejudicially affected. Eventually the Duke, on the proposition of the Judge, gave an undertaking not to cut any trees on certain specified parts of his property without the consent of the Court, except in the ordinary course of thinning. It may be taken for granted that this arrangement will work well, and prevent the recurrence of a very awkward misunderstanding between the heads of a noble house.

Remarking on the case the *Daily News* says:—The dispute relates to four woods situated at different parts of the estate, two of them being of considerable extent. These, or the greater portion of them, it is alleged, the Duke intends to cut down, and the Marquis of Stafford has invoked the assistance of the Chancery Division to restrain what he regards as a wanton interference with the beauty of the estate. As to the smallest of the four, the Highgroves Wood, Mr. Justice North held that a *prima facie* case had been made out. The trees here are from 150 to 200 years old, and the wood is connected with the garden by an avenue of lime trees. The Duke accordingly undertook not to interfere with this except in the ordinary course of thinning till the trial of the action. He gave an undertaking also not to cut down any of the trees bordering the drives.

therefore, the Duke of Sutherland in arranging to clear and to replant certain parts of the woods is not only acting within his rights, but is acting, too, in accordance with the principles of good forestry. This, at least, Mr. Justice North was content to assume. If the litigation is pursued, the parties will have the satisfaction of settling some nice points of law as to what is ornamental timber, and they will do the lawyers a good turn. What benefit they will derive or themselves is perhaps a more speculative matter.





*Trentham hall*  
*Venison given in the Season 1803.*

	Back Venison			Doe Venison	
	Whole	Half	Quarter	Whole	Half
The Bishop of Lichfield and Country	1				
The Judges at Stafford Races	1				
Newcastle Races	1	1			
The Mayors Feast at Newcastle	1				
Sneyd Colonel	1				
Anson Tho. Esq.		1			
Wrottesley Sir John		1			
Heathcote Sir John		1			
Farrowby Lord					
Bill the Rev. John of Farley		1			
<del>Buckridge the Rev. Lichfield</del> (dead)		1			
Bushlow John Esq. Kilwall Junior			1		1
Cobb <del>Thomas</del> Esq. Lichfield			1		
Child and C. Bankers London				1	
Cecilian Feast at Lichfield				1	
Dean of Lichfield in his absence to his Son		1			
Dormer the Hon. Mr. James, Alnwick					1
Deval Mr. of Lichfield		1			
Fletcher Sir Tho. Newcastle Botley		1			
Gentlemen and Lady's Ordinary at Lichfield Races		3			
Pinckly Tho. Esq. Lichfield		1			
Tand Geo. Esq. Lichfield		1			
<del>Adlyns Mr. Esq. Tollerhall St.</del>			1		
Hartshorn Inn at Lichfield Races			1		
King's head Inn at Lichfield Races			1		
Lowndes Rich. Esq. London		1			
Lord Farrowby has had one Buck from Dec. annually for several years					
But in the last Season he was not at Sanden					



VENISON GIVEN IN THE SEASON 1803 CONTINUED:

Brought forward.	Duck Venison			Lod Venison	
	Whole	Half	Branch	Whole	Half
Lloyd Esq. Esq. Gayton hall		1			
Lough Esq. Esq. Headle			1		
License day at Trentham Inn		1			
Mainwaring Esq. Esq. Whitmore		1			1
Mayers Feast at Leek		1			
Mayers Feast at Hanley		1			
Navigation Meeting at Stone		1			
<del>Robinson Esq. Esq. Lichfield</del>		1			
Port - Esq. Esq. Slane					1
Robinson the Rev. Mr. Swinnerston					1
<del>Robinson Esq. Esq. Navigation Office, Stone</del>			1		
Sparrow Esq. Esq. of Bishlon		1			
Swinerton Tho. Esq. Esq. Bidderston		1			
Sneyd Esq. Esq. Lichfield			1		
Woodhouse the Rev. Arch Deacon		1			1
The old Crown at Lichfield Races &c					
Total	5	25	0	5	7
Now - 2dy 5	1			1	

HANLEY VENISON FEAST

In 1783, probably as a protest against its lack of self-government, Hanley began the custom of appointing a mock mayor and corporation annually. The ceremony formed part of an annual venison feast, the Marquess of Stafford presenting half a buck and the qualification for membership of the Corporation being the ability to drink a yard glass of ale at a draught. The feast, described by the Staffordshire Advertiser in 1860 as "a joke from beginning to end" and by Arnold Bennett as "a piece of elaborate machinery for dinner-eating," is still held today.



Most of Kings Wood was surrounded by a wooden fence. The fence delineated the boundary of the area open to the general public. They were not allowed to enter the the "Closed Wood" which contained 125 acres in the mid 19th century. It was the job of the park keeper and the wood ranger to keep the public out of this area and to make this clear notices were erected by the estate in the vicinity of the wood.

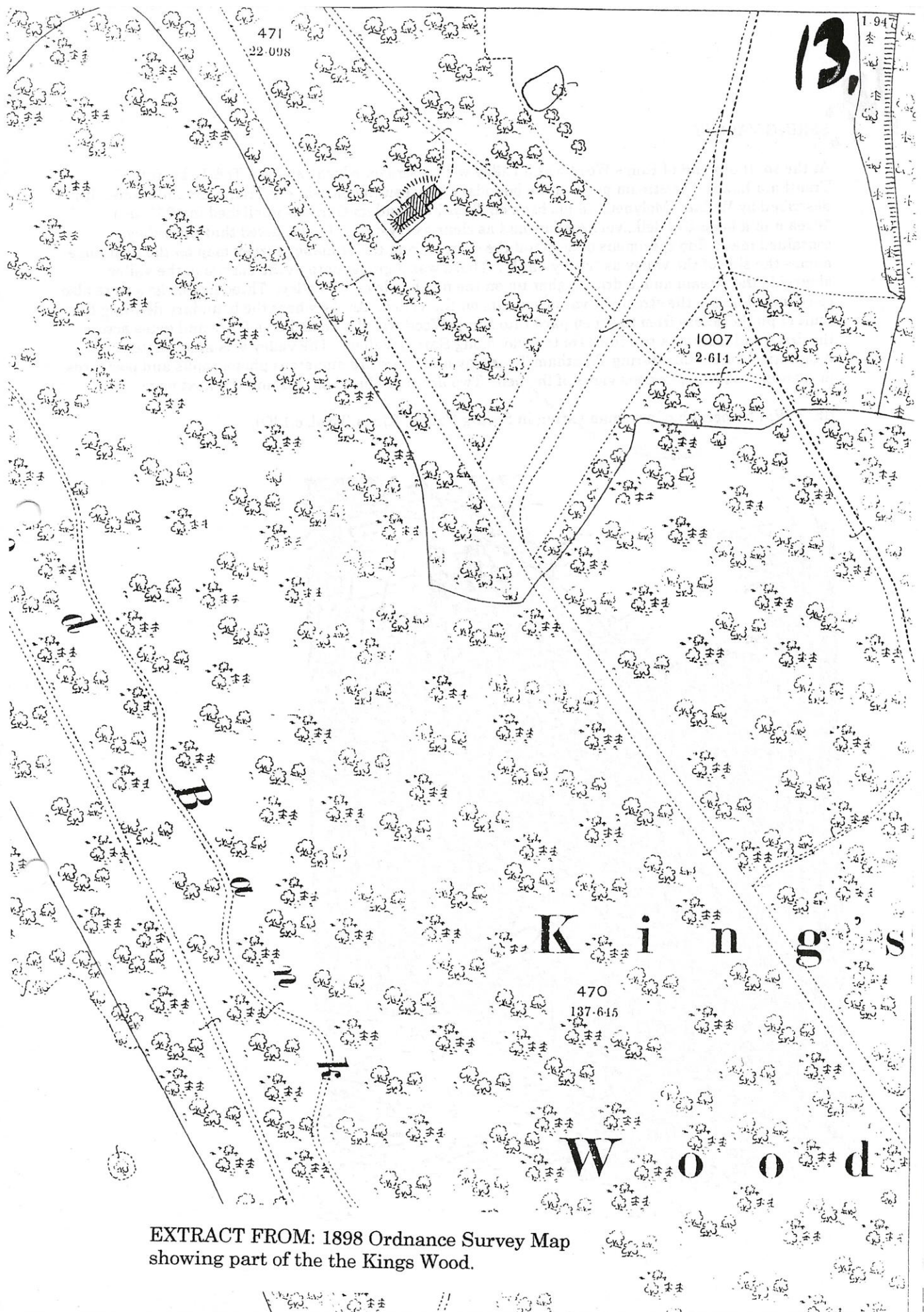
ALL PERSONS FOUND  
TRESPASSING  
In these Grounds,  
Will be prosecuted as the  
Law directs.

PRINTED BY THE NEWCASTLE

The extract from the 1898 ordnance survey map on the next page shows part of the division between the "open" and the "closed" wood. The line running irregularly across the map is the line of the fence. On the right hand side it joined on to the ha ha, a sunk fence, which ran up to the gates at the west entrance to the hall. There was a gate across the main ride which is shown on the photograph below taken in about 1900. Initially, the only time the public was allowed beyond this point was on "Trentham Thursday" during the Potteries Wakes holiday in August to permit access to Spring Valley and Monument Hill. These restrictions were relaxed during the 1880s which was to cause problems for the estate at a later date. The building shown on the map in the open part of the wood was a deer barn.





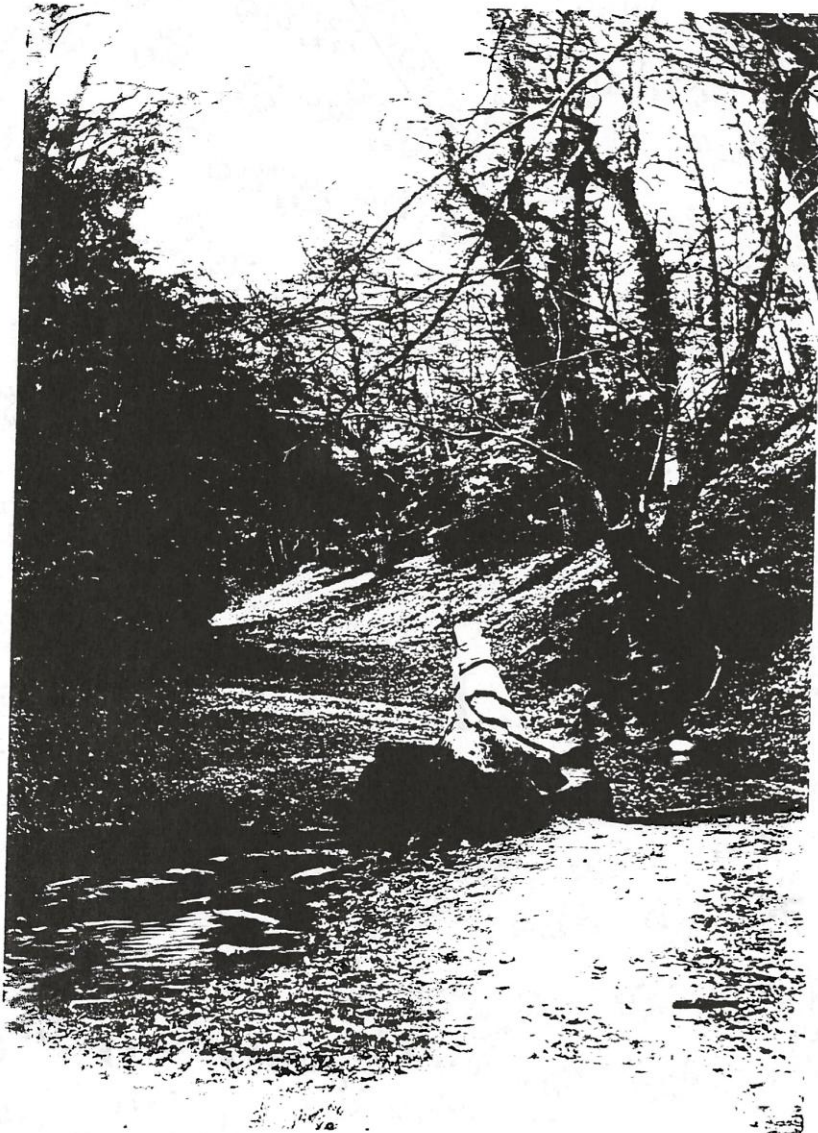


EXTRACT FROM: 1898 Ordnance Survey Map  
showing part of the the Kings Wood.

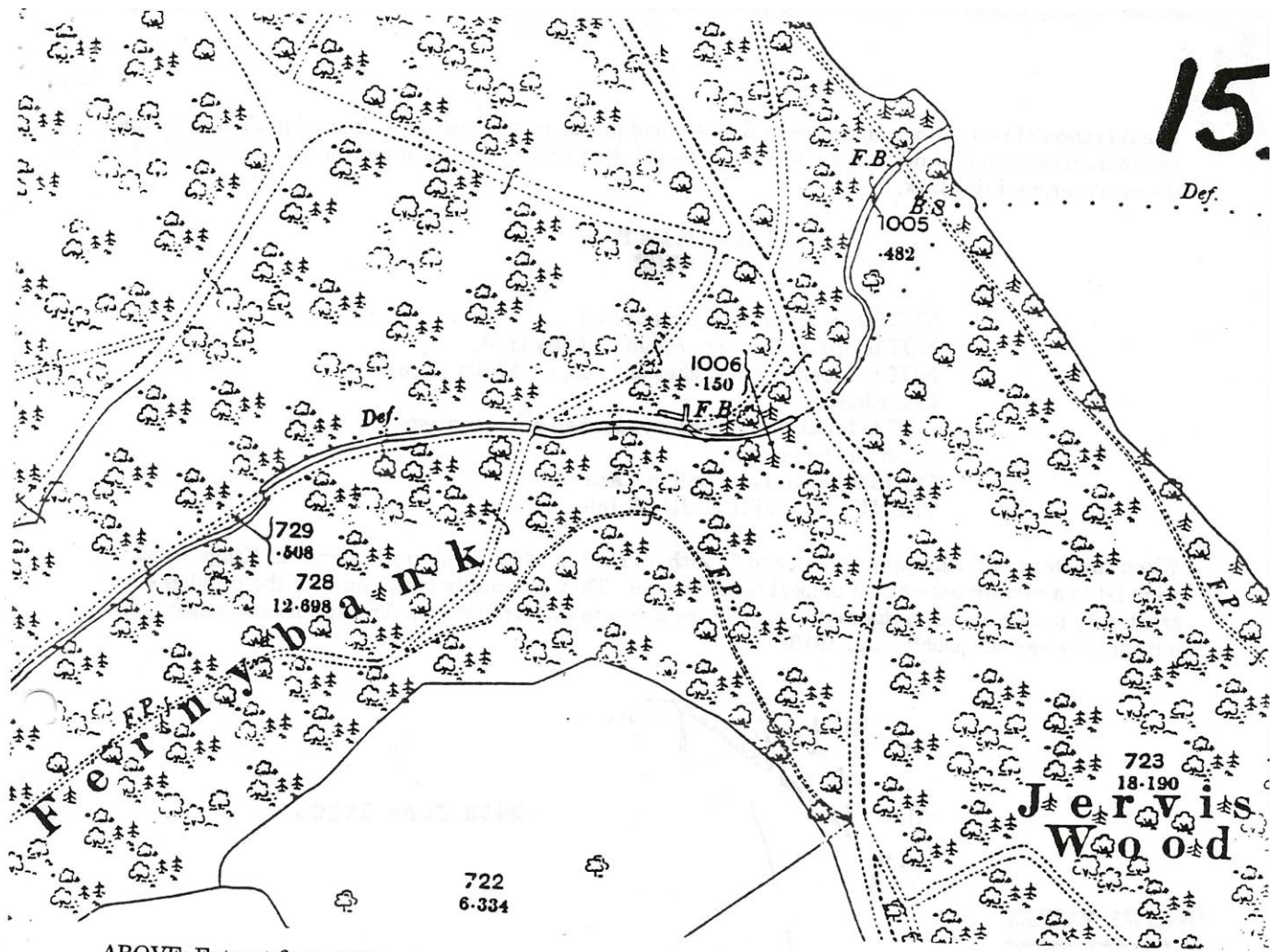


At the southern end of Kings Wood was a valley with a stream which ran from Toft Lake into Trentham Lake. The stream marked the boundary between the parishes of Trentham and Stone. It is described by William Molyneux in his book on Trentham and its Gardens published in 1857 as a "stream in a beautiful dell...very copious and as clear as crystal". He also noted that the valley contained many fine specimens of fern and the extract from the ordnance survey map on the next page names the side of the valley as "Ferny bank". There was a gravel path at the bottom of the valley alongside the stream and a drive higher up on the north side of the valley. Three footbridges were also constructed across the stream at various points on the valley. As elsewhere the boundary defining the limit of public access from the open park into Kings Wood was delineated by a fence and gates across the drive and footpaths two thirds of the way along Spring Valley. The valley was a favourite destination for visitors during Trentham Thursday and there are numerous photographs and postcards in existence showing various views of the dell. Two are reproduced on this and the next page.

BELOW: Photograph of a woman sitting in Spring Valley, Kings Wood, c.1890.

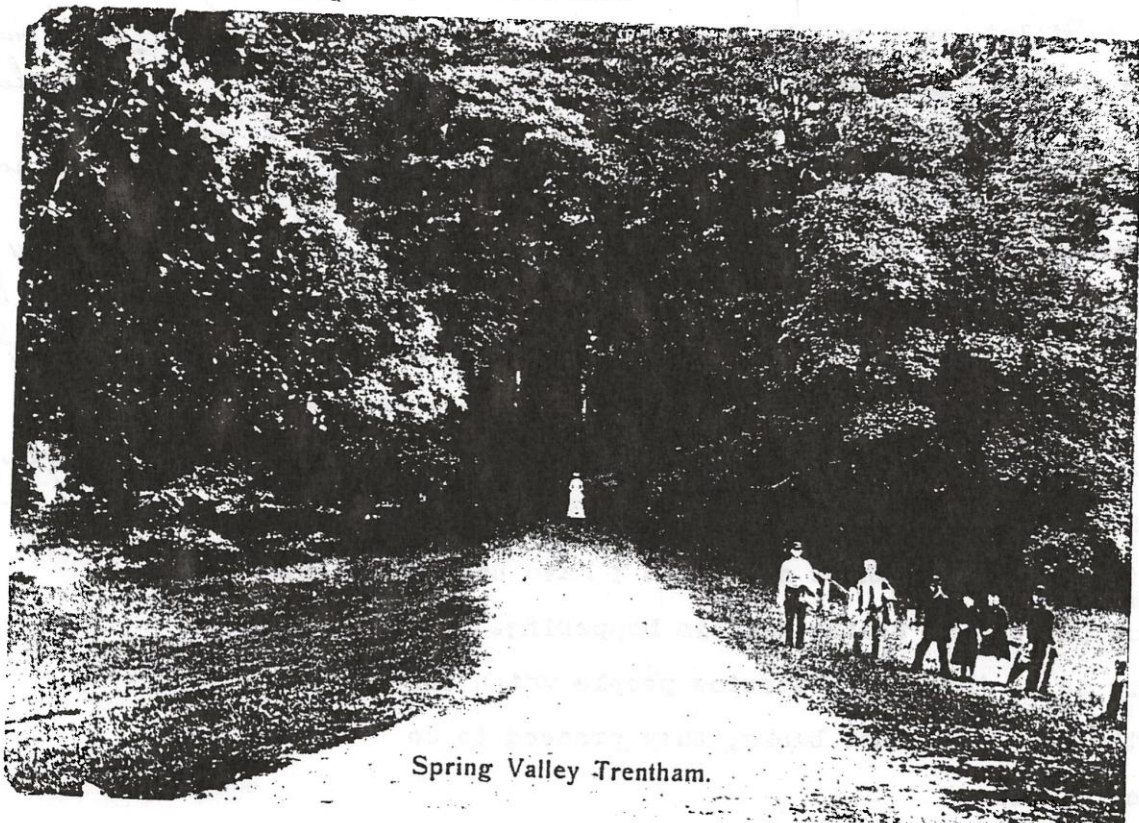






ABOVE: Extract from 1898 Ordnance Survey map showing part of Spring Valley in Kings Wood.

BELOW: Postcard of Spring Valley, Trentham c.1905



Spring Valley Trentham.



16.

The relaxation of restrictions on access to Kings Wood in the 1880s eventually created problems for the estate from the small number of visitors who abused the privilege. In 1896 new notices were erected by the estate around the park:

TRENTHAM PARK  
NOTICE

VISITORS are specially requested  
NOT to uproot flowers or plants of any kind.  
NOT to break the branches of trees, or shrubs, or cut  
in the bark.  
NOT to break bottles or leave broken glass or waste  
paper on the ground.  
DOGS found at large will be destroyed.  
TRENTHAM OFFICE, JUNE 1896.

When the Duke of Sutherland abandoned Trentham Hall in 1905 the shooting rights in Kings Wood were let to a private consortium of local businessmen. They constantly complained of the problems created by public access to the woods. The letter below to the Mr Todd, the Trentham estate agent, outlines the various problems in 1919.

*No. So long as  
they do no damage*

24th June 1919.

SPRING VALLEY

THE USER THEREOF BY THE LOCAL PUBLIC

Of late many people have got into the habit of making picnic parties to the Spring Valley. As this is private property it should not be done, excepting the people have first permission to do so. ~~Of late~~ The impression has got abroad that the Spring Valley is public property, and that people are free to go where they will and do as they like, this without let or hindrance. During the last few Sundays three of our men have been watching with the view of people being kept to the roads and footpaths.

On two or three occasions I have been there myself for the purpose of seeing what is happening. It appears to me that the Potteries people watch our men, and directly they see their backs, they proceed to do as they like.

*Mr Todd must be very careful about this. So long as they do no damage they have for forty years to my knowledge had this privilege.*



17

SPRING VALLEY

THE USES THEREOF BY THE LOCAL PUBLIC

I should not say so much about this, did they not do a certain amount of damage, for instance, on two Sundays in succession the fencing between the Big Wood and the Gardens has been deliberately broken down, and the people have forced their way into the Gardens. Only on Sunday last a party of twelve were caught who apparently had removed a barbed wire fence, and made a way in.

*This must be stopped.*

Furthermore people are in the habit of engaging boats in the Garden, taking them to the Spring Valley, picking up their friends there and going for a cruise. *And this.*

Finally, every week or so I have a letter or message from Mr. Settle complaining of the damage the shooting interests suffer in consequence of continued trespass in the wood by the public.

*I will speak to Mr Settle myself.*

I cannot help thinking there is only one remedy for this trouble, namely, that the people be expected to keep to the carriage drives.

Will Mr. Prowse please say if this is the correct interpretation of how things should be. If so, I would suggest that for a Sunday or two a police constable be engaged who should work in conjunction with our men, and direct the public to keep to the main drives.

*To be discussed with Mr Todd.*

*and the line of action most carefully decided upon.*

*B.A.P.*

*25/6/19.*



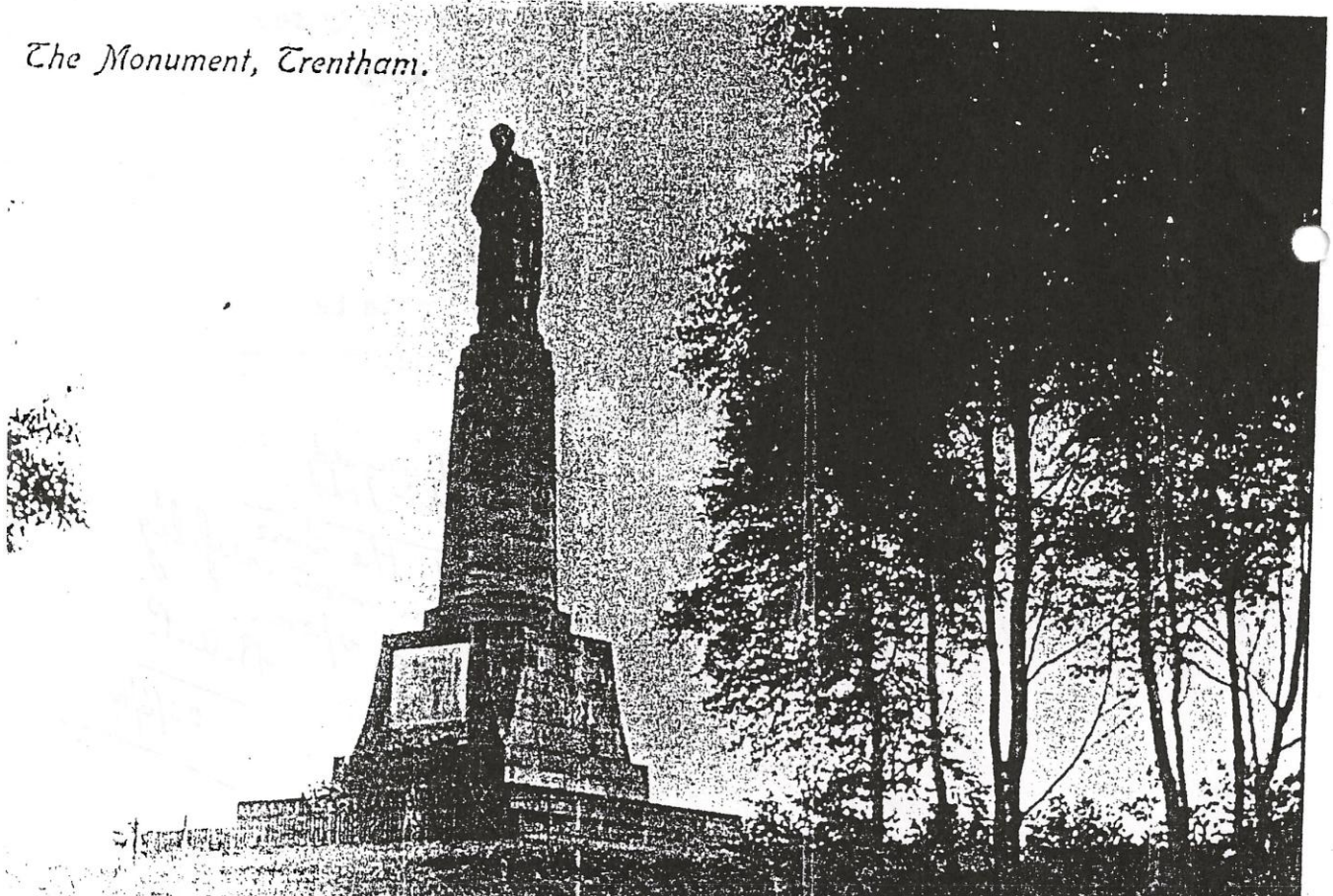
The monument to the first Duke of Sutherland was erected in 1834 at the top of Tittensor Hill. The base is a lofty plain column on a drum pediment of Hollington stone designed by Charles Barry. The whole is surmounted by a colossal bronze statue, fifteen feet in height, sculpted by Sir Francis Chantrey which can be seen for miles around. It is a grade II\* listed building. The monument was paid for by a subscription of the tenants and the inscription on the base reads as follows:

In lasting memorial of  
**GEORGE GRANVILLE,**  
 Duke of Sutherland, Marquis of Stafford, R.G.  
 an upright and patriotic nobleman,  
 a judicious, kind, and liberal landlord,  
 who identified the improvement of his vast estates  
 with the prosperity of all who cultivated them:  
 a public, yet unostentatious benefactor,  
 who, while he provided useful employment  
 for the active labourer,  
 opened wide his hand to the distresses  
 of the widow, the sick, and the traveller:  
 a mourning and grateful tenantry,  
 uniting with the inhabitants of the neighbourhood,  
 erected this pillar.  
 A.D. MDCCCXXXIV.

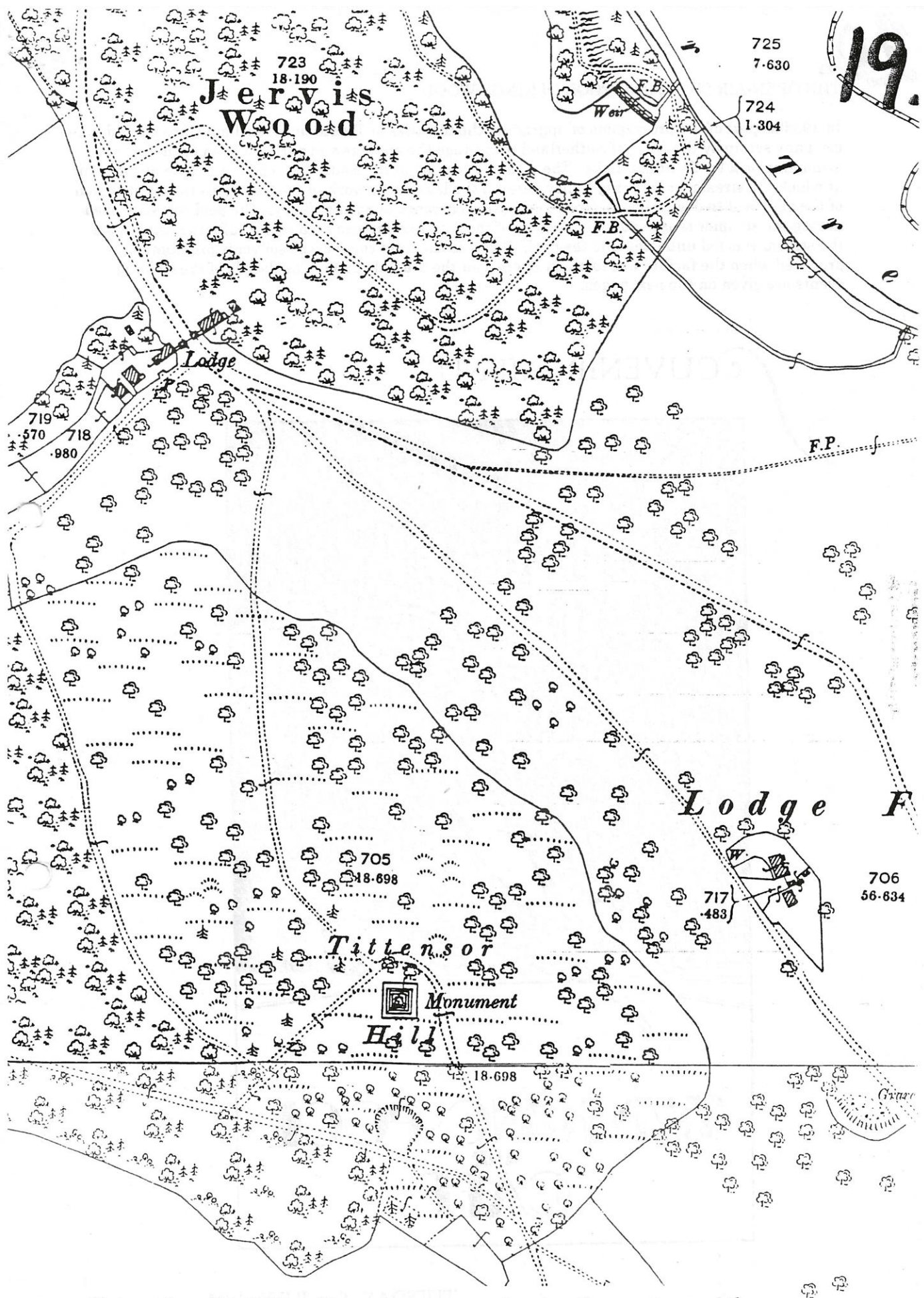
After the statue was completed the area of the park was extended southwards to include the monument and Tittensor Hill.

BELOW: A photograph of the monument c.1900.

*The Monument, Trentham.*







Extract from the 1898 ordnance survey map showing the area around the



## THE OPEN-AIR SWIMMING POOL IN KINGS WOOD

In 1935 as part of the programme of upgrading the facilities at Trentham, Trentham Gardens Ltd., the company set up by the Duke of Sutherland to manage the gardens and park, built an open-air swimming pool by Trentham Lake. The pool was located at the south-west end of the lake at the point at which the stream from Spring Valley entered the lake. The works associated with the construction of the new facility destroyed the former attractive entrance to Spring Valley. The pool was only open during the summer season not only because of the weather but also because initially the water from the stream was fed unheated into the pool. Below is the front cover of the souvenir programme produced when the facility was formally opened on the 9th July 1935. The details of the opening events are given on the next pages.

## SOUVENIR MENU



TUESDAY, 9TH JULY, 1935



# TRENTHAM SWIMMING POOL

21.

## ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

9th July, 1935

- 2-50 The Duke and Duchess of Sutherland will arrive at the Swimming Pool, and will be received by Mr. F. Todd, the Resident Agent, Mr. E. P. Turner, M.I.Min.E., Engineer, Mr. E. Boudry, Manager, and Mr. R. Boudry, Deputy Manager of the Swimming Pool.
- 2-55 The Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent (Ald. A. C. Harvey, J.P.), accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, together with Mr. T. H. Averill, Chairman of the Stone Rural District Council, will arrive at the Swimming Pool, where they will be received by His Grace The Duke of Sutherland and the Duchess of Sutherland at the main staircase.
- 3-10 The Chairman of the Stone Rural District Council will call upon Mr. Todd to present to the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress, and to the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland, the following gentlemen, who have been responsible for the design and construction of the scheme:—  
Mr. E. P. Turner, M.I.Min.E., Engineer  
Mr. Harold Goldstraw, A.R.I.B.A., Architect  
Mr. Peter Lind, Contractor  
Mr. Jacobsen, Engineer-in-Charge  
Mr. F. F. Plant, A.M.I.Mech.E., Assistant Engineer  
Mr. Keepen, Foreman-in-Charge
- 3-15 The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland, and the Chairman of the Stone Rural District Council, will then proceed to the Cafe Terrace, where the Chairman of the Stone Rural District Council will ask the Duke to make an introductory statement.
- 3-20 The Chairman of the Stone Rural District Council will ask the Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent to formally declare the Swimming Pool open, following which the pennants will be hoisted.
- 3-25 Mr. Averill will then introduce the Vice-Chairman of the Trentham Pool Amateur Swimming Club (Mr. Spencer Stanway) to present to the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress and to the Duke and Duchess the following ladies and gentlemen taking part in the Display :

Mr. Norman Wainwright	Mr. Norman Brookes
Mr. R. H. Leivers	Mr. Tom Scott
Miss Edna Hughes	Mr. Walter Scott
Miss Nora Wall	Mr. Ernest Jones

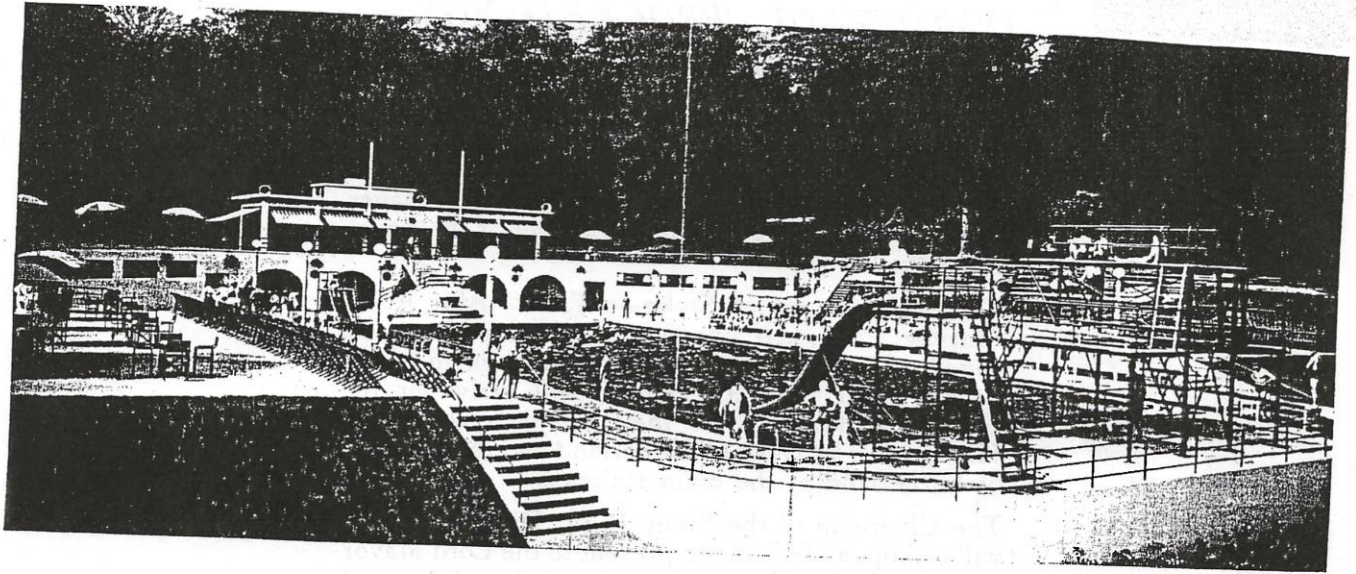
3-30

## DISPLAY of SWIMMING and DIVING

Under the auspices of the Trentham Pool Amateur Swimming Club, affiliated to the Midland Counties Amateur Swimming Association, and the Staffs County Amateur Swimming Association

(UNDER A.S.A. LAWS)





- 4-25 The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, together with the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland and party, will then be escorted by the Architect, Engineer, Resident Agent and Manager, on a tour of inspection of the buildings.

During this tour the display of swimming and diving will continue.

Ices and soft drinks will be served during the events.

- 4-40 The Duke of Sutherland will thank the Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent for his attendance and for performing the opening ceremony, and the Chairman of the Stone Rural District Council for presiding.
- 4-45 The Duchess of Sutherland will present gifts of souvenir pottery to the Exhibition Swimmers.
- 5-0 At the conclusion of the Display guests are invited to return to the Entertainment Hall in the main Gardens for Thé Dansant, where Don Pedro and his Mexican Orchestra will be in attendance until 7-30 p.m.

Guests who wish to do so may remain for swimming, and will be provided with tea at the Swimming Pool Cafe.

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The Pool will be available to the public at 6-30 p.m.

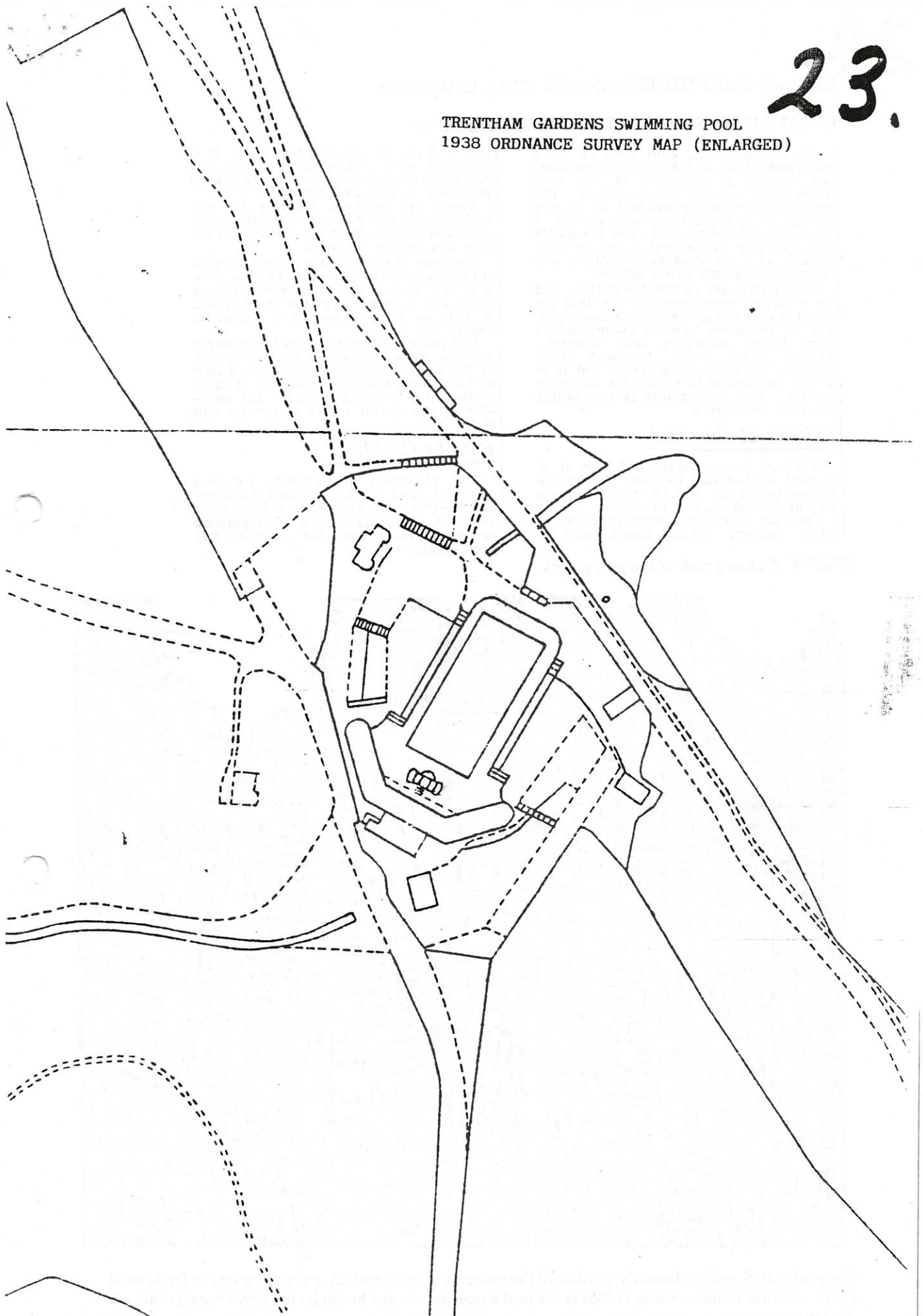
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Don Pedro's Mexican Dance Orchestra, supported by Rex and his Trentham Gardens Band, will play for dancing in the Entertainment Hall from 8 p.m. (when the public will be admitted) terminating at 11-45 p.m.



23.

TRENTHAM GARDENS SWIMMING POOL  
1938 ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP (ENLARGED)





EXTRACT FROM THE EVENING SENTINEL 12 MAY 1938

## GREAT IMPROVEMENTS AT TRENTHAM GARDENS

Picturesquely set, with trees on three sides and a lake on the fourth, is the open-air swimming pool—one of the most attractively laid-out in the country. The pool has been so constructed as to take advantage of the crystal clear springs of the famous Spring Valley, and the purity and condition of the water are the more reliable as a result of new filtration and chlorination plants now installed.

Both plants are of the latest type, and the result of their installation is that the water is now changed every six hours and, and, at the same time, is maintained in even better condition than formerly. Entirely fresh water, therefore, flows through the bath twice daily, and it is amply aerated so as to provide plenty of sparkle. The temperature is maintained at about 70 degrees.

***Leivers at the Pool***

The pool is now open, and a point of interest is that Bob Leivers, the Empire Games champion, will be training in the pool at 2.30 on Sunday afternoon.

The bath is equipped with chutes of the latest pattern, spring boards and a

standard diving stage 15 feet high. It is provided with underwater lighting, and the surrounds are adequately lighted to provide safe bathing after dark.

There are spacious terraces for sun bathing and commodious dressing rooms. Teas and refreshments are available in the cafe and on the terraces.

One way of reaching the swimming pool is by means of the miniature railway, now provided with a new engine and rolling stock and with much of the track relaid. A trip on the railway is a delightful experience.

The romantic lake provides facilities for boating, fishing and motor-boat trips, and, as the result of the acquisition of a new motor-launch, there are now two of these craft. Teas and refreshments are available at the quaint chalet at the far end of the lake.

***For the Children***

The children's playground, paddling pool and sand pit are valuable adjuncts, and several new amusements have been provided since last season. Car parking accommodation near the ballroom has been enlarged.

BELOW: A photograph of the pool c.1955



The pool was closed in the early 1970s and the complex demolished after standing empty for several years. All that remains today (1998) is the pool superintendent's house by the drive from Trentham gardens.